

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph that appears at page 8 line x to page 9 line 6 as follows:

Figure 2 illustrates, in block flow format, a method for port map integrity verification in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Process 100, performed by a computer system, commences at 110 by accessing port binding information from a port binding file. More specifically, embodiments of the present invention access files that are established when the network system is initialized. It is noted that port binding information is established when the network is initialized and includes the permanent bindings which are those ports assigned permanently to particular services or clients. An example of a permanently assigned port is that which is assigned by convention to a peripheral, such as a printer.

Please amend the paragraph that appears at page 9 lines x-y as follows:

At 130, the present embodiment compares information gathered in the portmapper query, 120, to the binding information stored in an electronic device in network management, accessed at 110. Binding information includes the permanent port assignments that are fixed by convention and agreement as well as those bindings assigned by the network management to services and clients that access the network without fixed port assignments. The binding information can also include a secure digital signature associated with each authorized service and client. In the comparison of step 130, the assignment of services and ports is compared to the stored bindings.